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IRAQ

**PRIMARY HEALTH
CARE PROJECT**

SUCCESS STORY

New lab Equipment Improves Primary Health Care Services in Diyala

The USAID Primary Health Care Project in Iraq (PHCPI) partners with the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH) to strengthen the delivery of primary health care services throughout the country. The project focuses on improving maternal and child health services and supporting the Government of Iraq to improve the standards and quality of 36 “model clinics” to serve as a prototype for future replication and investment in primary health care throughout Iraq.

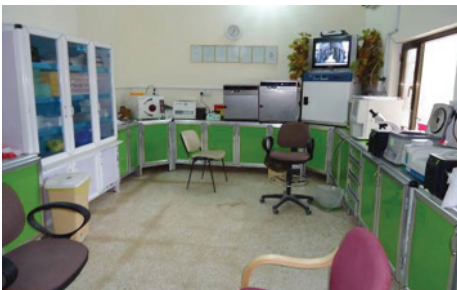


Photo: USAID / PHCPI

Above: The new laboratory at the Al-Wajehia model clinic, after delivery of equipment by USAID/PHCPI. Below: Clinic laboratory staff are happy with the more functional and comfortable laboratory space.

A functioning laboratory is essential to modern medicine. Health care staff who are forced to make decisions without the benefit of test results due to lack of lab equipment risk misdiagnosis or improper patient care. To address these issues, PHCPI has been working to refurbish and rehabilitate 36 model PHCCs.

To support more effective health care, USAID's Primary Health Care Project recently supplied new laboratory equipment and renovated the Al-Wajehia Medical Clinic. The clinic is located in the Muqdadid district of Diyala Province in Central Iraq and serves a population of 33,039. The laboratory unit at the Al-Wajehia clinic provides diagnostic services such as screening for various diseases, to hundreds of people that visit the clinic every day.

The laboratory was located in a small room with improper ventilation and very poor lighting. There was also no place for patients to sit when they came in to be screened and the room was cluttered, resulting in patients not being satisfied with the quality of care that they were receiving .

USAID/PHCPI equipped the clinic with the essential standard equipment to help achieve a high and modern quality of care. The equipment that was provided during the renovation were filing cabinets, benches for patients to sit while waiting to be seen, air conditioning units to help with the ventilation in the room and new light fixtures.

“The laboratory now looks great” the lab staff stated. “Now we have more space for easier movement and flow of patients and more room for the medical records and the new PHCPI equipment in the laboratory.”

The staff now work in a safer, healthier and more spacious environment, motivated by the support from USAID/PHCPI and Director of Health.